

NEWS from

DENNIS HANSBERGER

San Bernardino County Supervisor, Third District



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**Contact: Kathi Payne
(909) 387-0297
kpayne@sbccounty.gov**

SUPERVISOR HANSBERGER, BOARD BRING ADDITIONAL RELIEF TO FIRE VICTIMS

As homeowners in Cedar Glen continue to rebuild their homes after the devastating fires in 2003, Supervisor Hansberger and the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors today took action that will accelerate aid to victims of the Old Fire that destroyed 336 homes in Cedar Glen, a picturesque community east of Lake Arrowhead in the San Bernardino Mountains.

The Board approved three key proposals Tuesday morning.

“There are few events in life more devastating than losing your home and all you own to a fire,” said Dennis Hansberger, whose Third District includes the Cedar Glen Community. “The County can do so little to replace personal effects, but there is much we can do to stimulate the reconstruction processes that will be the foundation of rebuilding their homes and lives.”

The Housing Rehabilitation and Land Use Grant and Loan Programs will set aside \$1.2 million to help low and moderate income residents rebuild their homes using grants and low-interest loans. Another \$1 million will be available should the initial allotment run out.

The programs allow residents to apply for loans of up to \$30,000 to be repaid at a three-percent interest rate. Under the grant program, qualifying residents may receive up to \$4,000 to help offset construction startup costs.

The funding is meant to help residents meet the costs of major repairs, renovations and reconstruction of their homes.

The Board also accepted an additional \$1.1 million grant award from the Department of Housing and Community Development of the State of California. The state previously approved a \$2 million Disaster Recovery Initiative grant to the County of San Bernardino to aid the Cedar Glen area. Recently the state added additional funds to the program, making \$3,091,270 available for Cedar Glen.

Finally, the Board approved an agreement between the County of San Bernardino Redevelopment Agency (CoRDA) and the County's Department of Community Development and Housing (CDH) to cement administrative responsibilities for housing programs in Redevelopment project areas. The agreement draws on the expertise of CDH in implementing housing assistance programs. The Co RDA is leading reconstruction efforts in Cedar Glen.

"Combined, the three proposals eliminate a series of obstacles facing Cedar Glen residents as they rebuild their community," continued Hansberger. "The grant increase offers more money to rebuild. The grant and loan programs help residents overcome financial hurdles, and the administrative agreement draws together County agencies to improve service to Cedar Glen residents."

Resident Connie Manning says she fell in love with Cedar Glen during the three years she owned a cabin in the quiet community. After losing her home to the fire and recently surviving breast cancer, she said it will be "a dream come true" to rebuild her Cedar Glen home.

"This is a blessing I've been waiting for," she said. "People are starting to return and rebuild and this will really help. It's going to be better even than before the fire."

The County has already worked on several rebuilding efforts. Earlier this month crews began installing road signs – a critical step to help construction companies and others deliver needed materials. The County is also working to improve water service, make road improvements and help businesses expand and relocate in the Cedar Glen project area.